

IF U. S. COULD BE LICKED WE WOULD BUILD UP AN AEROPLANE FLEET

BY HERBERT QUICK.

Sometimes I read that most interesting publication, the Daily Consular and Trade Reports, published by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. In today's number is a communication from our consul-general at Moscow, Russia.

"The Russian war department," says Mr. Snodgrass, "has completed

ENGLISH PASTOR AT SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET



Rev. F. B. Meyer.

To tell the American Sunday school workers about Sunday school organization methods in England, Rev. F. B. Meyer has traveled from London to Chicago.

The pastor of Regents Park Baptist Church, London, is one of several foreign visitors at the International Sunday School convention,

its order for aerial craft covering this year. It is proposed to order 326 ordinary aeroplanes and 10 aeroplanes of the type of 'Ilya Murometz.' Of the 336 airships, 100 will be of the type of Sikorsky, of moderate dimensions. The other airships will represent the types of Farman, Duerdisin, Moran and Voisin. The program will be completed before the autumn of 1914. The war department has already ordered three large dirigibles, of which two will be constructed in France and the third in Russia."

Our great aeroplane fleet has been sent to Vera Cruz. According to the press dispatches, we have fifteen machines in all, aeroplanes and hydro-aeroplanes, "half of which are in condition to be used."

This makes $7\frac{1}{2}$ airships belonging to the air fleet of the United States, as against 339 machines in one year's orders for Russia!

If we are going to war, why haven't we a proper equipment of these cheapest and most useful of war machines?

The expense of our best battleship would have built 4,000 of these airships!

Is Congress to blame? I cannot say; but I suppose so. Congress is rightly preoccupied by our internal affairs. The silly thing about Congress—and the people of this nation—is that we are so preoccupied with our internal affairs that we neglect our military preparedness until a crisis comes on, and then we scream loudly for war.

If we could only be **SOUNDLY LICKED ONCE**, it would do us a world of good. It would do us still more good if we could possess our souls in patience in a crisis.

We probably shall go on having military spasms occasionally—and making war with $7\frac{1}{2}$ airships in all, as against nearly 400 a year for other first-class nations.